



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FACT SHEET

### **SANDERS INTRODUCES NEW HIGH-TECH PARKING METERS FOR DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO**

#### *CITY'S FIRST "PAY AND DISPLAY" METERS OFFER VARIETY OF OPTIONS*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today unveiled a new and innovative pilot parking meter project that will provide more parking and payment options to Downtown visitors. Unlike traditional parking meters which appear at each parking space, electronic boxes, servicing an entire block, will be located mid-block.

#### **PAYMENT**

Effective immediately, the new "Pay & Display" meters will take credit cards, parking debit cards and coins. Using any of the three payment options, parking customers will get a receipt to display on their dashboard as well as a detachable receipt to take with them as a reminder of when their parking limit expires.

#### **LOCATIONS**

Visitors to Downtown can find the Pay & Display meters in the following neighborhoods/areas: Marina; Gaslamp; Core/Columbia; and East Village/PETCO Park.

Parking rates, which have not changed as a result of this program, are displayed on the meters and signage in the area.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The 50 meters are part of a nine-month pilot project to provide more convenient alternatives for parking customers and more information on the City's parking needs.

The battery-operated, solar-powered meters send reports directly to City staff on: how many cars have parked on any given day; how much money is in the meter; and malfunctioning meters.

“One of these meters replaces 10 single-head, traditional parking meters,” said Mayor Sanders. “These features make them not only more accommodating to parking customers but grant extensive data for future parking design and save on maintenance and labor costs.”

**PROJECT COLLABORATORS:**

- City of San Diego
- Centre City Development Corporation
- Downtown Parking Management Group (DPMG)

**PROJECT COSTS AND REVENUE DISTRIBUTION:**

- The costs are distributed between the City (55%) & DPMG (45%).
- Revenue from the meters will be distributed in the same ratio.
- The vendor is CALE Meters of Clearwater, Florida.
- Each meter retails for \$10,000 to \$11,000.
- The City purchased the meters at a reduced rate for the pilot.
- Traditional single-head meters cost \$700 with installation and programming.

**PROJECT ADVANTAGES:**

- Consumers will have the ability to use credit cards, parking debit cards and coins, eliminating the need for change and maximizing the number of people using the meters.
- Consumers will have a receipt for their parking with the expiration time on it.
- The meters give a direct report to the Meter Shop when they need service or emptying saving significant time and labor for City staff.
- Meters report parking usage by area, date, time, payment type, providing invaluable data for parking design.
- One Pay & Display meter can replace 10 single head meters. Single-head, traditional meters are getting more difficult and costly to replace. They also require more maintenance and labor.
- All meters can be programmed at once (instead of individually) in case of rate changes, holidays and special events.

**METER DIFFERENCE:**

- Currently, the debit cards that customers use in single head meters refund money back to the card. (For example: If a customer buys two hours of parking but only uses one, they can reinsert the card and get the remaining balance back.) **This will not be available with the new Pay & Display meters.**

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